

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WILLIAM LOBBINS III

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Lobbins III of Parkville, Missouri. Brett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Lobbins III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

### CLEARWATER FIREFIGHTER PAT CONREY HONORS FALLEN COMRADES

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clearwater firefighter Pat Conrey, who I am proud to represent, for the remarkable tribute he has paid to a fellow firefighter who fell in the line of duty.

In his effort to raise money for the family of Oscar Armstrong III, a Cincinnati firefighter who died fighting a fire in March 2003, leaving behind a pregnant fiancée and two young children, Mr. Conrey did an extraordinary thing. He donned 45 pounds of firefighting gear and ran the entire 26.2 miles of the Flying Pig Marathon held in Cincinnati last May 4th.

Pat's caring and compassion for others were on full display that day. After stopping along the route to pay respect to the Armstrong family, Pat and a fellow firefighter resumed running and soon came upon another runner who collapsed on the pavement from an apparent heart attack. Pat and his partner in the race, Joe Arnold, performed emergency CPR on the fallen runner until an ambulance could arrive.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that Pat once again resumed running and completed the marathon in 5 hours and 26 minutes. During that time, he demonstrated to the people of Cincinnati the compassion, courage and heroism that our Nation's firefighters exhibit every day in our communities. Following my remarks, I will include for my colleagues the full story of Pat Conrey's run as reported by Terry Tomalin in The St. Petersburg Times.

In closing, please join me in saying thank you to Pat for his moving tribute to a fallen firefighter and for his inspiring story of selfless service to the people of Clearwater, Florida.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, May 29, 2008]

### FIREFIGHTER GEARS UP TO HONOR THE FALLEN

(By Terry Tomalin)

Clearwater firefighter Pat Conrey started out wanting to honor a fallen comrade. By the time it was over, his quest encompassed 26.2 miles, flying pigs, and ultimately, life and death.

Conrey had heard the story of Cincinnati firefighter Oscar Armstrong III, who died battling a blaze in March 2003, leaving behind a pregnant fiancée and two children.

He decided to run Cincinnati's Flying Pig Marathon on May 4 in full firefighting gear to raise money for Armstrong's family.

"Firefighters have this special bond," Conrey said. "When one of us dies, we all feel it."

Conrey, who has completed 10 marathons, ran the Times Turkey Trot in Clearwater in 45 pounds of gear last year to raise money for families of fallen firefighters.

"When you run in firefighter equipment, you get people's attention," he said.

But running in full gear isn't that glamorous.

"It was hot—real hot," Conrey said. "You have to drink a lot of water."

The 40-year-old Conrey, Clearwater's firefighter of the year in 2007, trained for months, logging several 13-mile runs in his bunker coat, bunker pants, air pack and helmet.

"That is pretty out there," said local running coach Joe Burgasser. "You don't want to carry any extra weight. I would not recommend that for any sane person."

Conrey, who earlier this year finished a 50-mile run through Withlacoochee State Forest in 10 hours and 23 minutes, is used to people thinking he's crazy.

"I love it," he said.

A month before the marathon, Conrey learned two other Cincinnati-area firefighters also had died in the line of duty.

"That made me want to make sure that I finished even more," Conrey said. "I would run for all of them."

Word spread through the Cincinnati firefighting community that a crazy man from Clearwater was running for the families of the fallen.

"It really touched everyone," said Joe Arnold, a Cincinnati firefighter who ran part of the race, minus the gear, with Conrey. "To think this guy would come all this way and run a marathon in his turnout gear for people he had never met . . . that is what it is all about."

About eight miles into the marathon, Conrey and a dozen other firefighters stopped at a fire station to pay their respects to Armstrong's family.

"We didn't know they would be there," Conrey said. "There were lots of hugs, some tears. It was very emotional."

The unexpected stop put the firefighters behind schedule. While they were talking, a man named Bobby Edwards, a 10-year Flying Pig veteran, ran by.

Once they resumed running, the firefighters hadn't gotten a mile down the road

when they came across Edwards collapsed on the pavement, a victim of an apparent heart attack.

"When I got there I said, 'It is time to go to work boys,'" Conrey said.

Arnold performed chest compressions on the 55-year-old runner as the rest of the group assisted.

"If we hadn't stopped to talk, we would have been in front of him," Arnold said. "It is little things like that make being a firefighter so special."

Conrey, who despite the gear and stops covered the course in 5 hours, 26 minutes, said he is still amazed at the difference a few minutes can make.

"When you do what we do for a living, you realize how precious time really is," he said.

"I am glad I was there to help make a difference."

### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LEAH WALLER

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Leah Waller, recently awarded the title of 2007–2008 Baltimore City Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Waller has been a teacher with the Baltimore City Public School System for eight years, teaching Kindergarten and first grade at Maree G. Farring Elementary School.

When she's not teaching at Farring Elementary, Mrs. Waller has taught Summer School and tutored at the Jemicy School for Dyslexic Children. She has served as a mentor teacher for student teachers and new teachers. In addition, she has worked closely with the Children's Literacy Initiative and was selected to be a Model Classroom for Baltimore City.

Always well prepared for daily instruction, Mrs. Waller utilizes the curriculum and Baltimore City Public School System mandated programs in an effective and engaging way. In Mrs. Waller's classroom, lessons are thoroughly developed with the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learner in mind. Skills and concepts are successfully mastered through a variety of strategies and techniques to ensure full comprehension from the students.

The individual needs of all students are met in Mrs. Waller's classroom. Assessment data is consistently analyzed to diagnose student strengths and areas for concern. This data is analyzed to help drive instruction in the most beneficial way. Because of the active participation in the learning process, the environment in Mrs. Waller's classroom is very conducive to learning. She holds her students to the highest expectations and creates an atmosphere of mutual respect between the teacher and students.

Mrs. Waller's professional responsibilities are fulfilled with great care. She maintains an organized recordkeeping system that monitors

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